

SUMMARY

Work is progressing on the project to create a new collection and research facility for the Royal British Columbia Museum in Colwood, Victoria. In September 2020, the government announced the new facility, dedicated to research labs and learning spaces and exhibition spaces for the museum's collections, much of which is stored and rarely displayed at the museum's primary location downtown. The current storage site is at risk of flooding, hastening the need for a new collections space. The new collections building will preserve millions of historical objects and archival records currently housed at the Royal BC Museum in Victoria. The 152,000-square-foot collections facility, designed by Vancouver-based firm, Michael Green Architecture, will be built on an eight-acre parcel of land within the Royal Bay development by Vancouver-based Gablecraft Homes. The provincial government acquired the

property for \$14 million CAD (\$10.5 million USD). In 2023, after a 2-year tender process, the British Columbia government announced the appointment of Canadian firm Maple Reinders Construction to construct the new mass timber, LEED Gold Certified building for \$204.8 million CAD. Construction is scheduled to commence in the summer of 2023 and is expected to last three years. The BC government anticipates main construction will complete in October 2025, with total completion in January 2026, and will aim to open the building to the public in the summer of 2026. The project was initially estimated to cost \$224 million CAD (\$181.7 million USD); however, in 2023, the British Columbia government confirmed costs were now valued at approximately \$270 million CAD (\$196.8 million USD). (Updated 20 March 2023)

